

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 2, 2005.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite due to the term “open/close device.” Applicants have amended these claims in a non-limiting manner to eliminate the term “open/close device.” Since the claims were amended in a non-limiting manner to provide clarification, estoppel is not implicated.

Applicants respectfully request that the § 112 rejection of claims 1-4 be withdrawn.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP S56-59170 to Kazuhiro (“Kazuhiro”). Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the features of claim 5. The Examiner indicates that claim 5, which ultimately depends from claim 1, contains patentable subject matter.

Since amended claim 1 contains the patentable subject matter of claim 5, claim 1 is patentable over the prior art. Claims 2-4, which depend from independent claim 1, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5 and 6 contain allowable subject matter. However, since the features of claim 5 have been incorporated into claim 1 as noted above, Applicants hereby cancel claims 5 and 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/772,465

Attorney docket No. Q79777

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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